

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed are methods for obtaining antigens that are expressed by pathogenic microorganism during an infection process, as well as the antigens so obtained. Also disclosed are isolated polynucleotides encoding said antigens, recombinant polypeptides expressed from the isolated polypeptides, antibodies capable of forming immune complexes with the obtained antigens, and various other compositions useful in the detection, diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment of a microbial infection. The methods of the invention utilize pooled sera from patients who have partly or completely undergone infection by a microbial organism in order to obtain genes that are expressed during *in vivo* but not during *in vitro* growth of the microbial organism.